

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5798

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
SUBJECT: DPC MEETING, NOVEMBER 29: FORCE PLANS FOR THE PERIOD
1974-78

REF: A. STATE 234045 (NOTAL)
B. STATE 233617 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. DPC APPROVED ITS REPORT ON NATO 1974-78 FORCE PLANS
(DPC/D(73)23) FOR SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS. U.S. MADE STATEMENT
IN STATE 233617 ON POTENTIAL IMPACT OF JACKSON-NUNN ON
MAINTENANCE OF U.S. FORCES IN NATO EUROPE AND IN STATE 234045
ON MC ASSESSMENT OF COUNTRY FORCE PLANS. CANADA EMPHASEZED NEED
FOR DPC MINISTERIAL SESSION TO FOCUS ON HIGH PRIORITY AREAS FOR
IMPROVEMENT, AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES AGREED TO ASSIST.
END SUMMARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

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1. DPC BEGAN ITS CONSIDERATION OF NATO 1974-78 FORCE PLANS
WITH BRIEF DISCUSSION OF MCM-83-73, "OVERALL MILITARY SUITABILITY
OF 1974-78 FORCE PLAN AND ASSOCIATED DEGREE OF RISK." STEINHOFF
(CHAIRMAN MC), WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING PLANNED FORCE IMPROVEMENTS,

STRESSED THAT NATO 1974-78 FORCE PLANS WERE FAR FROM SATISFACTORY IN MANY CRITICAL AREAS. STEINHOFF NOTED QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS OF WARSAW PACT FORCES OVER SAME PERIOD AND CONCLUDED BY EMPHASIZING THAT EXISTING GAP BETWEEN WARSAW PACT AND NATO FORCES' CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES APPEARS TO BE WIDENING. HE URGED MEMBER NATIONS TO REVIEW COUNTRY PLANS ON AN URGENT BASIS WITH A VIEW TO CORRECTING CRITICAL DEFICIENCIES. SYG LUNS SAID MC HAD NOT PAINTED A CHEERFUL PICTURE, BUT ONE IN ACCORD WITH FACTS.

2. RUMSFELD(U.S.) MADE STATEMENT ON MC ASSESSMENT IN STATE 234045. MENZIES(CANADA) SAID THAT COUNTRIES HAVE ALLOWED ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FORCE GOALS TO BE SET FOR THEMSELVES; HE SUPPORTED U.S. VIEW THAT NATO MUST DECIDE ON A SHORT LIST OF CRITICAL ITEMS. MENZIES EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AT DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING MINISTERS WILL NOT JUST PASS OVER FORCE PLANS IN RAPID FASHION AS HAS BEEN PAST PRACTICE; HE ADDED NOW IS THE TIME TO DETERMINE KEY AREAS FOR PRIORITY FORCE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH TAKE ACCOUNT OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES. STEINHOFF REPLIED MC HOPED FOR GUIDANCE FROM MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION AS TO WHICH CRITICAL ITEMS SHOULD BE ASSIGNED HIGHEST PRIORITIES AND INDICATED THAT MILITARY AUTHORITIES WOULD ASSIST. KRAPF (FRG) STATED THAT UNPREPAREDNESS OF COUNTRIES TO FACE OIL CRISIS SHOULD BRING HOME TO MINISTERS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT LET THIS HAPPEN IN THE DEFENSE FIELD.

3. RE NATO 1974-78 FORCE PLANS, LUNS NOTED THAT 1973 DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW WAS INCOMPLETE IN THAT SACEUR HAD NOT YET COMPLETED ASSESSMENT OF THE BELGIAN PROFESSIONALIZATION PLAND AND FRG RESTRUCTURING PLAN HAD NOT BEEN ADDRESSED. LUNS SAID COUNTRY CONSULTATION WITH NATO ON THESE REFORMS IS CONTINUING. BUWALDA (NETHERLANDS) SAID NETHERLANDS WOULD SUBMIT ITS NEW DEFENSE PLAN (WHEN IT IS READY) TO JUDGMENT OF NATO.

4. RE REYKJAVIL DECLARATION IN RECOMMENDATIONS SECTION (PARA 35(H) OF DPC/D(73)23, RUMSFELD SAID US COULD ACCEPT ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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INCLUSION IN THE REPORT. HOWEVER, GIVEN ENACTMENT INTO LAW OF THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT, US IS NOT AND WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE ITS ALLIES UNCONDITIONAL ASSURANCES REGARDING MAINTENANCE OF US FORCES IN NATO EUROPE. LUNS NOTED RUMSFELD'S REMARKS AND STRESSED CONSEQUENCES JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT COULD HAVE FOR THE ALLIANCE.

5. SVART (DENMARK), NOTING THAT ONE ADVANTAGE OF NEW DANISH DEFENSE PLAN IS TO MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES, INFORMED THE DPC THAT DENMARK HAS JUST APPROVED LARGEST APPROPRIATION EVER FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT- ABOUT \$80 MILLION. AVAILABILITY OF ADDED FUNDS FOR EQUIPMENT MEANS THAT SOME ITEMS THAT WERE LISTED IN COUNTRY CHAPTER AS PLANS BECAME FIRM PROGRAMS. CONSEQUENT CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO

DANISH COUNTRY CHAPTER.

6. DPC APPROVED REPORT ON COUNTRY FORCE PLANS (DPC/D(73)23)
FOR SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS ON DECEMBER 7 FOR ADOPTION AS
NATO 1974-78 FORCE PLANS.
RUMSFELD

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